



The Supreme Court of Texas

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
OSLER McCARTHY

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
United States House of Representatives
21st Congressional District
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I respectfully request your support for the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) *State Courts Improvement Initiative*. The request is for \$2,000,000 to be included in the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2010 in the Byrne Discretionary Grants account.

The NCSC provides education, technical assistance, research, and training services to our state courts. These NCSC services enable judges, court administrators and key court personnel to remain modern, efficient, and equipped with resources to provide a more effective court system. Because of its successful track record and 100% participation among the states and territories, the services provided by the NCSC allow for the fastest and most economical mechanism for dissemination of information and best practices to the states.

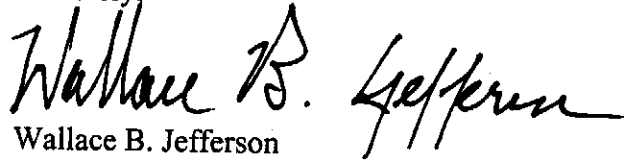
Funding the *State Courts Improvement Initiative* would enable the NCSC to offer increased support services in three key areas: (1) the **Knowledge Information Services** Division (KIS), which acts as a library and clearinghouse service for state court personnel; (2) **Education and Technical Assistance** for judges and other court personnel struggling to implement federal policy; and (3) **National Court Initiatives**, which would help the state courts meet daunting challenges in top priority initiatives such as immigration, terrorism, healthcare, emergency preparedness, global epidemics or pandemics, and court security.

The NCSC remains the premier national institution dedicated to court improvement. For 37 years it has offered information services, training, research, and technical assistance to courts in a wide range of areas. The NCSC's Board of Directors includes the Presidents of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) plus several judges, court managers, attorneys, and business leaders.

January 12, 2009

Every year the Texas judiciary benefits from the information and services offered by the NCSC. We strongly urge you to support this request for \$2 million to fund its *State Courts Improvement Initiative* and include this project in your request to the Appropriations Committee. For additional information about this important request, please contact **Kay Farley** at (703) 841-5601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace B. Jefferson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wallace B. Jefferson
Chief Justice